

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: kreinbd@ccgate.dl.nec.com (David Kreinberg)  
Subject: [2650] 40M EARLY SUCCESS  
Message-ID: <9600118213.AA821376786@smtpgw.ccgate.dl.nec.com>

Dear Folks:

Last night (abt 0300Z) 40m was extremely noisy (QRN)  
with very low signal levels.

Dragged myself out of the sack an hour early this morn  
and found 40 to be VERY active - great signals, very low  
noise. At 1215Z (0615 local) worked C02CI , Aki, in Havana  
for about 20 minutes. He was a solid 579 and gave my 2 watts  
from OHR EXP II a nice 559 (using the new vee at 40').

Made me feel "warm and fuzzy" all over. My study of the  
many facettted 40m band continues to interest me. Just  
thought you may find it worth your while to "get up with  
the sun" and do some things on 40 (instead of being  
frustrated like me during "prime time hours" ).

BTW - I guess the published band plan (Jan QST) is getting  
out. Finding more and more digital sigs on/near 7.040 MHz

72 de Dave KK5HA

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: ssalgaller@CCGATE.HAC.COM  
Subject: [2660] <fwd> message; request for info about Tesla for PBS NOVA TV  
Message-ID: <9600118213.AA821382593@CCGATE.HAC.COM>

REGARDING RE>History of Radio suggestions

Since you mention Tesla, can you recommend something authoratative to read  
that measures his contribution vs. Marconi etc.? Also, since you're in CA, do  
you know local experts in early radio in Southern California? (We'll be  
visiting at the end of the month). Do you know anyone who knows something  
about "Doc" Herrold and his early San Jose CA station?

H Gural

The following is an attached File item from cc:Mail. It contains  
information that had to be encoded to ensure successful transmission

through various mail systems. To decode the file use the UUDECODE program.

----- Cut Here -----

```
begin 644 rfc822.txt
M1G)0;2!H87)R>5]G=7)A;$!W9V)H+F]R9PT*6"U%;G9E;&]P92U<F]M.B!H
M87)R>5]G=7)A;$!W9V)H+F]R9PT*4F5C96EV960Z(&9R;VT@9W)I9F9I;BYW
M9V)H+F]R9R`H,3DX+C$T-RXQ-S4N,3`I#0H@8GD@141%3BY(04,N0T]-("A0
M341&(%8T+C,M-R`C-3@X-"D@:60@/#`Q2%I6341:4$M/1S`P2C)2,D!%1$5.
M+DA!0RY#3TT^.R!4:'4L#0H@,3$02F%N(#$Y.38@,#@Z-#4Z,#D@4%-4#0I2
M96-E:79E9#H@9G)0;2!W9V)H+F]R9R`H<6UG871E+G=G8F@N;W)G(%LQ.3@N
M,30W+C$W-2XR72D-"B!B>2!G<FEF9FEN+G=G8F@N;W)G("@X+C8N-2\X+C8N
M-2D@=VET:"!33510(&ED($Q!03`T.3<P(&90<@T*(#QS<V%L9V%L;&5R0$-#
M1T%412Y(04,N0T]-/CL@5&AU+"`Q,2!*86X@,3DY-B`Q,3HT-#HU-R`M,#4P
M,`T*1&%T93H@5&AU+"`Q,2!*86X@,3DY-B`Q,3HU.#HS-"`M,#4P,`T*1G)0
M;3H@2&%R<GD@1W5R86P@/&AA<G)Y7V=U<F%L0'=G8F@N;W)G/@T*4W5B:F5C
M=#H@4F4Z($AI<W10<GD@;V8@4F%D:6\@<W5G9V5S=`T*5&\Z('`-S86QG86QL
M97)`8V-G871E+FAA8RYC;VT-"DUE<W-A9V4M:60Z(#QN,3,Y,#<V,3<Y-2XX
M,C(S-T!W9V)H+F]R9SX-"E@M36%I;&5R.B!-86EL*DQI;FL@4TU44"U132`S
G+C`N,@T*0V]N=&5N="UT<F%N<V9E<BUE;F-09&EN9SH@-T))5`T*
```

end

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "Richard Hieber" <Richard.Hieber@rrze.uni-erlangen.de>  
Subject: [2661] Berlin calling  
Message-ID: <172C9F33206@isis.rrze.uni-erlangen.de>

Bob, KI5EZ, Wrote:

```
> Sez Brad, WB0CGH --
>
> >Several years ago I did some key trading with a ham in Berlin, then
> >in West Germany.
>
> Ummm, when did Berlin move? I thought it was in the (old) East
> Germany.
```

No argument, guys. You are both right.

Before the reunification, Berlin was divided. Berlin (East) was the capital of the former German Democratic Republic (GDR); the Western part Berlin (West) was a capitalist stronghold surrounded by Commies ;)

Now there is only one Berlin and it's the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG; no East, no West). Much easier now, guys. They

even have a very active QRP group there. Just ask Peter, DL2FI.

I wouldn't even dream of writing all this without adding an ObQRP: I'm still having a ball with my CMOS Super Keyer III. Did an extensive comparison on paper with the keyer that is locally regarded as the best and will have a talk about it at one of the local club meetings. Found out that a LED is good to bring a 6V lithium battery down to the right voltage level to power the SK3, to protect against accidental polarity reversal and to give a nice visual indication of the ongoing activity - for free. I plan to use a piezo beeper instead of the tiny loudspeaker which should bring power consumption down if the control tone is on. I might even make the volume adjustable with a little poti.

The loopable memories are great for extended CQ or beacon calls. Are there any circuits floating around for having the same for SSB? Twenty to thirty seconds of storage time should be enough, but again, it must be loopable. Maybe a NE555 or some such could be used to trigger the replay off again after an adjustable time? I know there are a few chips around who do speech storage. Price and current consumption are the important factors here. It would be nice if the memory contents would be saved even if the battery is disconnected (i.e. EEPROM or similar).

I have heard of voice keyers in separate boxes and as accessories to big commercial rigs, but never had a chance to play with such a thing. What kind of features do they have?

72,

Richard

--

Richard Hieber, DL8MFQ/AA8CP

EMAIL: Richard.Hieber@rrze.uni-erlangen.de

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996

From: Rick Blank <rblank@legend.txdirect.net>

Subject: [2649] Consumer Reports, was Re: Ten-Tec Rigs

Message-ID: <199601111529.JAA13011@legend.txdirect.net>

>

>Second, QST has been pretty impartial and even critical at times.

>

>Third, Consumer Reports is the most biased publication I have ever seen, even  
>without ads. I have followed their "recommended" products at times and have  
>found it to be a mistake on a number of occasions. I remember my mom tellin  
>a story of buying their recommended washer and dryer. The washer was garbage

>and had to be returned to the store. She bought another model that was not  
>recommended and it lasted for over 17 years without a service call.

>

>IMHO, QST is fair and you can keep the Consumer Reports.

>

>Regards,

>

>Duffy - WB8NUT

>

>

>

I, too, feel that QST has been honest in evaluating radios from the US and Japan, Inc., and has in the past talked about problems with performance of some radios...the most important thing to do, like any consumer, is to understand just what the heck the specifications are saying and use that information to make an informed decision.

Consumer Reports, of which I am a subscriber, on the other hand, sometimes seems to have it's head someplace dark....I own an appliance service business that specializes in factory authorized warranty repairs. I have been around appliances all my life, I bought the business from my dad, and it never ceases to amaze me how CR can take 4 different brands of appliances, which just so happen to be the same under the skin, NO MECHANICAL DIFFERENCES WHATSOEVER, and give four different ratings! Does the cosmetics influence even the CR folks? If not, then explain why Kenmore, Whirlpool, Kitchen Aid and Roper all get different scores on how well they wash clothes? The different control conveniences don't amount for that much, do they?

I honestly think that sample to sample variation is enough to account for the variation CR sees from brand to brand within the same manufacturers umbrella.

I also know from personal experience, I have agreements with several rental agencies to do service on machines that are leased on contract, that the servicability of machines that I see, and I see all brands, is different from what CR reports. The problem here is the annual survey that CR sends out to members and what people my report.

Just my two cents worth but remember, statistics don't lie, but liars use statistics....

Rick Blank, KI5SL  
2223 Blanco Road  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

rblank@txdirect.net  
KI5SL@K3WGF.STX.USA.NOAM  
AMSAT NA#26195

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "Leonard J. Barish" <barish@kutztown.edu>  
Subject: [2631] Dan's Small Parts  
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.960111002837.29239B@atlantic>

I recall last summer that members of this list reported that Dan had picked up shop and planned to relocate. Does anybody know if he has surfaced and where he is now located? His baggie kits got me started in building and I would like to continue with some of the kits he used to handle.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: bhopkins@polarnet.com (Bruce Hopkins)  
Subject: [2689] Explorer II/KC-1 - QRP Paddles  
Message-ID: <v01530500ad1b5cc465e3@[204.119.24.96]>

Hi Gang,

Wonder if anyone has interfaced the KC-1 freq. counter to the Explorer II 20 meter version??? If so would appreciate any info...

Also remember seeing in QST (perhaps 73) a set of miniature iambic paddles in a product introduction... Think it was within the last couple of years... Can anyone help on which month and year I need to dig for ??? Anyone using them or have any other suggestions for a backpacking keyer ???

Thanks...

72/73/00's Bruce - KL7JAF

```
/-*- * --*- / -** * / -*- *--* --*** *--- *- **-* / -**-* / --*- *- *--* /  
[  
[ Bruce Hopkins - KL7JAF LIN HOPKINS - WL7BHT ]  
[ QRP-L #380 ISSB #14548 QRP-L #XXX ISSB #14547 ]  
[ McPig #003 TFO - 359 UWPB #001 TFO - 350 ]  
[  
[ P.O. Box 10079 ]  
[ Fairbanks, Alaska ]  
[ 99710-0079 ]  
[ ]
```



Message-ID: <960111214710\_39045545@emout04.mail.aol.com>

As the story goes...

I recently put up a Gap Titan that I recieved used from anther ham. When he had assembled the antenna, he had made several minor mistakes. I have corrected the mistakes and have the antenna mostly working. I worked JA1NUT this morning about 12:00 GMT and got a 559 with the OHR 400 at about 5 watts, so it must be working.

To make a long story shorter, the antenna resonates 80 meters with a cap installed in the top of the antenna. The original owner had gotten one of the spade lug connectors pinched when he installed it so it was not making good contact. Also, he had "shorted" the 40 meter resonator, which is the wire that goes around the outside of the "counterpoise" on the bottom of the antenna, by hooking the wire to the wire without installing a string between the two hals to isolate them. I have to admit that after talking with Gap about how the antenna works the way it does, this is one strange and different antenna design! The rods spaced around the antenna act as resonators for 12, 17, and 15 meters, the rod on the top is the and bottom extend the bandwidth on a couple of the bands, the wire around the bottom is for resonance on 40 meters, and get this, the other "pigtail" that the 40 meter wire hooks to is for resonance on 10 meters. The whole antenna is what is the 30 meter resonator.

The colors and values for the 80 meter band selection are as follows..

Color	Value	Band Resonance Mid-Point
Black	3300pf	3.5 MHZ
Blue	1900pf	3.8 MHZ
White	2800pf	3.6 MHZ
Red	2300pf	3.7 MHZ
Green	1500pf	3.9 MHZ
Clear/Orange	1400pf	4.0 MHZ

You are supposed to get about 100 hz on 80 meters and I have the green cap in for 3.9 which is what the antenna was ordered with, and get about 80 hz at 2.5 SWR, so the cap is probably not 100 %. I have ordered two more caps from Gap, ons for 3.5 and one for 3.8, and the cost for both was 27.00 and I received them in 3 days priority mail.

So far the antenna seems on par tranmit wise with the R7 that I had up, the 80 meter success has been lower than with the 66 foot 80 meter inverted L that I had with the top of the L at 30 feet, but it was a much bigger antenna and I am using the antenna on 80 meters with the tuner in the bottom of the band, so when I get the 3.5 cap in I will give it a better try. They say in the manual not to run the antenna through a tuner at SWR's higher than 2.0-1 so I suspect that I am not getting much ERP at the antenna on 80 yet. The antenna has been much better on 30 meters than the R7. 30 meters on the R 7 was not it's best band. I snagged Easter Island on 30 meters the other

morning at 5 watts, and I think the R 7 would not have stood a chance. It appears that the Gap is at least 2 s units quieter on receive and the signal to noise ratio is better. I can also tell you that when the antenna is out of tune, it is as deaf as a stump, at least on 80 meters and 40 meters. I had the R 7 up in tune and the Gap out of tune on 40 meters and the R 7 was 3 s units louder and I could hear signals on the R 7 that I could not hear on the Gap. Now that the Gap is in tune on 40 meters, it hears as well and the noise is 1-2 s units lower, so it "hears" better as the signal to noise ratio is better. The R 7 is a loaded vertical with a matching circuit on the bottom. Cushcraft claims that it is a "half wave" vertical. Horse Hockey. There is no way a 25 some foot vertical is a half wave on 40 meters. The Gap is a loaded vertical dipole. Two entirely different approaches to antennas, same net result except that the Gap gives limited service on 80 meters and gives much better bandwidth on 40 meters than the R 7, 100 plus khz versus 50khz on the R 7.

Thats the scoop so far, I hope that installing the cap for 3.5 will improve the 80 meter performance. I don't want a DX killer on 80, just enough antenna to make some nice 80 meter QSO's.

Best for now  
Jess NOTFI

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: Thom.LaCosta@f0.n105.z105.fido261.qis.net (Thom LaCosta)  
Subject: [2639] HABLIB Remote Query DataBase  
Message-ID: <f3f\_9601110823@fido261.qis.net>

HABLIB is a remote query database that affords Fidonet callers or Internet users the ability to query a database listing manuals and other technical manuals that various amateur radio operators have agreed to make available for copy/loan.

The base of the list is the Ham Tech Library (HTL), which is posted from time to time in the FidoNet HAM\_TECH echo.

HABLIB contains information NOT found in the HTL.

#### HELP with commands for Remote Database Query

The Remote Database Query system allows any node with a FIDO node number, or an intermail user to send a low(no) cost routed-netmail message, or e-mail to query the database AND have the system send back a routed NetMail message(or e-mail) to the requestor.



#### A. How to access HAMLIB

Enter a netmail message to HAMLIB at 1:261/1352 (Note: make sure YOUR origin address is a current FIDO node number, or a valid Internet address!!).

If you're accessing HAMLIB from the internet, address the message to: hamlib@fido261.qis.net

The subject can be anything of your choice.

#### B. Query Commands in Message Body

In the body of the message, you have 2 command types, FILE: and FIND: which are used as follows:

```
FILE: database{.dbf}    [the extension is optional]
FIND: search text       [this is not case sensitive]
                        [enter .ALL for all records]
```

This will send a message back to you with the results.

Example: You want to find all manuals available for Drake Equipment.

FILE: HAMLIB

FIND: Drake

Example: You want to find all manual that are modifications

FILE: HAMLIB

FIND: modification

#### C. Additional Query Commands in Message Body

Alternate commands issued under the FIND: command type:

.LF -or- .LIST FILES

This returns a list of available database files.

For this command a FILE: entry is not required.

Example Message Text: > The system will send you a list

FIND: .LF > of available Database files

.? -or- .HELP

This returns a message containing this HELP text.

For this command a FILE: entry is not required.

Example Message Text:

FIND: .HELP                   > The system will send you this help  
                              > File.

Alternate commands issued under the FILE: command type:

.LS -or- .LIST STRUCTURE

This returns a file structure for the database in FILE:

Example Message Text:

FILE: HAMLIB               >You've specified HAMLIB.DBF and  
FIND: .LS                 >asked for a listing of the structure

Your listing in the HAMLIB database can be submitted in the following ways:

FidoNet Thom LaCosta 1:261/1352

InterNet thom@fido261.qis.net

Here is the required format for submissions:

		MAX Characters:
MODEL	: T-4XB	14
DESC	: Drake T-4XB,own	30
CODE:	: O/G	3
WHO	: Thom LaCosta/N3WDV	25
FIDO	: 1:261/1352	12
INTERNET	: tom@fido261.qis.net	35
PHONE	: (410) 528-1771	13

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*                   THE HAMLIB   DATABASE ABBREVIATIONS                   \*  
\*       Based on the HAM\_TECH ECHO TECHNICAL LIBRARY                   \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### DESCRIPTION

op-operations manual	bull-service bulletin
svc-service manual	assm-assembly instruction
inst-instruction manual	man-manual
tech-technical supplement	own-owner's manual
sch-schematic	sht-operation sheet
mod-modification	qrc-quick reference card

\*\*\*\*\*

#### CODE

C-copy, O-original

Copy means you get a copy of a copy, keep this in mind.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### COND

E-excellent, G-good, F-Fair, P-poor

\*\*\*\*\*

Thom LaCosta  
N3WDV

--

|Internet: Thom.LaCosta@f0.n105.z105.fido261.qis.net  
| Standard disclaimer: The views of this user are strictly his own.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "Mark S. Adams" <msadams@acsu.buffalo.edu>  
Subject: [2645] HW-9 Sold  
Message-ID: <30F54A7E.8A2@acsu.buffalo.edu>

The HW-9 that Tom Guntzel had for sale as posted a couple of days ago has been sold....to me!

Also, a Happy New Year to all on the list and many thanks for the replies to my questions last year. The level of response, and the in-depthness of the responses was nothing short of incredible. So many that I could not thank people individually.

72, Mark

--

Mark S. Adams N2VPK NE-QRP: 376  
msadams@acsu.buffalo.edu QRP-L: 314

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: NYOUNG@nova.wright.edu  
Subject: [2687] Keys, paddles & other S&M stuff about poundings  
Message-ID: <01HZW7BZN4G894FK9I@nova.wright.edu>

I've had something that looks like the Bencher keys. We had them in PR at the naval detachment at Ramey AFB. Didn't like 'em too much. Weren't never quite as nice as the J37 that I'd gotten as a kid. And I've used a real Vibroplex bug a couple times too. Nice. Very, very nice. If I can save any money between now and Dayton, I think I'll go looking for one. New. Fresh outta da box. As if I need more toys.

My favorite key, bar none, is the JRC key that I bought back about 15 years ago at Dayton. It ain't bolted to the deck, like the J37 that I used for the first few years after I got out of the Nav. It doesn't have to be. It's got a base loaded with some

kind of heavy stuff (hope it ain't radio-active like) and it has an action as mean as a snake or as gentle as a lamb. I've run it both ways. But why I like it is simple: it's big and it's built for the days when ships had real CW operating postions. Marine stuff. Built to sink with the captain.

But paddles? Shoot, that's a tough one. I already told about the Ten Tec KR40 that I had. It had them magnet return things that everyone is arguing about. Personally, I liked that. Click. Click. Click. Snappy is the word for it. Snappy wins.

And I have a set of Brown Bros Machine Tools keyer paddles. I've run 'em for the past 23 years (since about 1972+) with the same keyer circuit that used to be in the TT KR series. Don't ask for an explanation. It's a good circuit and the paddles play nice.

But the problem is this: I bought one of those postage stamp cheap keyer board kits from TT Kits and put it in a box with some monster paddles made out of circuit board material, the channel changing push button switches what go in TVs nowadays, a chonk of plexiglass about 3/4" thick and a big chonk of steel bar stock about 1/4" thick, 5" wide and maybe 6 or 7" long. It don't move. And the paddles, well, they're just stiff enough for me. Like bending board stock. Stiff. And those little switches go click... click... click. And I don't use the Brown Bros Machine Tools paddles that much anymore.

Not that they're not nice. It's just that I got spoilt on these home brew deals. And for a straight key, nothing -- that is nothing -- beats the JRC key. Doorknob button and all. Not even the 8 Amp straight key that was made 3 years before I was born. Be kinda neat if it came off the old Saratoga. The one that Billy Mitchell bombed. Then it's be another sailor story.

So there. And I didn't mention Consumer Retorts once, did I. Well, except for just now.

73

Nils

WB8IJJ

Anybody remember the QST review of the first Argonaut? I do. Made me buy one. Too bad I don't have it now. Eh. You live and live.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: H Smith <hbs@crl.com>  
Subject: [2641] nice QSO  
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960111052901.13970A-100000@crl3.crl.com>

This has little to do with QRP however:

This morning while driving to work, I had a very nice CW QSO with Ralph, W7MP from Wenatchee, WA.

Ralph was born in 1899. That makes him about 97 years old. He was using a new Icom IC-775DSP, he's only had it about a week.

Is this a great hobby or what?

CUL,

Smitty, NA5K/m

Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: David Adams <dave@flowserver.stem.com>  
Subject: [2671] Novice Round UP  
Message-ID: <9601111943.AA00843@flowserver.stem.com>

So, does anyone know if it was, indeed, cancelled this year? I had thought so as I didn't see any reference that I can recall is QST, but I was glancing through World Radio and they have it listed as Jan 27 - Feb 10. Can anyone clarify as my wife was looking forward to it.

dave

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=====

David J Adams	N9UXU QRP-L #83
dave@flowserver.stem.com	NorCal QRP
(415) 813-5028	Flow Cytometry Specialist

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: PAT DOYLE (KA2GSL PAT DOYLE) <DOYLEPS@LAKEHURST.NAVY.MIL>  
Subject: [2675] Novice Round UP -Reply  
Message-ID: <s0f53486.001@LAKEHURST.NAVY.MIL>

When the ARRL published the results last year,  
they announced that the 1995 Novice Roundup was  
last, due to lack of participation.

They showed a graph of the number of participants  
for the past 15 years; it showed the  
participation had dwindled, particularly since the  
No-Code Technician class license was introduced.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "John Foote" <John\_Foote\_at\_HDN-BCSE@ccgate.ml.nec.com>  
Subject: [2673] Packet network between Washington, DC and Dallas  
Message-ID: <9600118214.AA821403609@mvlsmtg.ccgate.ml.nec.com>

Can anyone tell me how to send packet mail to and from the Dallas area  
from around here (Virginia suburbs of DC)?

72 de KR4GL  
John Foote

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: bmitchel@kodak.com (Brad Mitchell)  
Subject: [2636] paddles etc.  
Message-ID: <9601111314.AA11836@iiatasun.cba.Kodak.COM>

Well, I'm enlightened abt the high end keys now for sure!

But, what abt them there White Rook keys now?

I have an iambic set.. neat for what it is..  
I bet if they can make a set for \$10 then they can make a better  
one for \$20..  
There is a wide open market for keys in the low end range, and  
I think that they have realized it..

Wonder how long before they introduce a \$20 key a few notches up from the one they have now?

Gotta remember, there still are people out there in this world that want cheap stuff too.

They used to sell keys minus the base , which made the key cheaper wonder if any of them bother these days?

73 Brad WB8YGG

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "j. w. thornton" <dub@iAmerica.net>  
Subject: [2628] Paddles:  
Message-ID: <199601110349.VAA00450@ns2.iAmerica.net>

Hi Gang. Looks like I stirred up a hornets nest for sure. I have not talked to Steve since I bought my paddle, other than briefly on CW, and checking my records reveals that was near 4 years ago. At that time Steve was not actively advertising his paddles, but making them in spare time between fishing trips. I am a retired machinist, and appreciate good machine work, design, and finish, and this is a work of art.

The comments on the magnets not acting like a spring. I think most will find that a "mushy" spring feel is not what we are looking for in a paddle. The crisp breaking action of the magnet is much preferred. That said, I use a very close setting between contacts. A sheet of normal paper is approx 003" and will not slip between the contacts of my paddle as adjusted for my feel. Of course we are not gonna all agree on what we want in anything. Thats what makes hoss racin.

The address is     Steve Nurkiewicz             Call is N2DAN  
                     1385 Abner Street  
                     Port Charlotte, Fl. 33980

Sorry I do not have a fone number. Oh yeah! Price was \$350.00 when I bought mine 4 years ago and have been told it is around \$400.00 now but that is not verified. I have no interest other than appreciation for a fine piece of gear. The \$350.00 I spent 4 years ago has long since been forgotten. The paddle will be with me for a lifetime.

"72" Dub WA5YFY

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: KT3A@aol.com  
Subject: [2690] QRP Society of Central Pennsylvania  
Message-ID: <960111212933\_39024544@mail02.mail.aol.com>

I have received inquiries since our address was put in the new ARRL Handbook. Here is some additional information.

Club Purpose:

We are a no nonsense organization. If it isn't fun, we don't do it. If it isn't necessary we delete it and we make every effort to keep it inexpensive. We expect everyone to participate in some way and we place high emphasis on learning at our own pace. Our club projects and technical lectures are the means by which we accomplish this goal. Although our organization is designed to serve members from Central Pennsylvania, we still welcome other hams to join the movement. We will from time to time participate in field contests in conjunction with other QRP Organizations throughout the country.

Club motto:

I hear and I forget,  
I see and I remember,  
I do and I understand.

We strive to serve the needs of Central Pennsylvania QRP'ers.  
By the following:

1. Learning and Sharing Sessions
2. Newsletter
3. Portable Operations
4. Friendship with fellow local QRP'er

Our newsletter, the "QRP Gazette" is put out every 2 months. Our dues are \$5.00 and due in Sept. This covers the newsletter. Sample Newsletters can be obtained from KT3A for a SASE. Previous project was a SWR bridge.

72 de Cameron, KT3A  
Publicity Officer, QRP Society of Central Pennsylvania (QSCP)

QRP Society of Central Pennsylvania  
c/o Cameron Bailey  
PO Box 173  
Mount Wolf, PA 17347-0173



From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: QLF%[mimi@magic.itg.ti.com](mailto:mimi@magic.itg.ti.com)  
Subject: [2648] QRP-L  
Message-ID: <9601111500.AA20546@itg.ti.com>

From: Brad Bradfield QLF

Subj: QRP-L

Paul's (N9AZ) assesment of why the Bencher paddles are mushy feeling is right on the mark. When you stamp out the paddle arms from 12 guage (or so) sheet metal, you're going to have some amount of flex at that point. The Bencher keys ARE an engineering marvel in their design, they're just not what I want my paddles to feel like in operation.

I've never actually seen or used a Bencher straight key, but from the looks of it in the magazine ads, the beam of the key appears to be stamped out of about the same guage sheet metal as their paddle arms are. Even though the beam is significantly wider than the paddle arms, I belive that it too would have some amount of flex at this point. Anybody out there got a Bencher straight key? How's it feel? Gimmee some comments.

Several years ago I did some key trading with a ham in Berlin, then in West Germany. Among the keys I acquired from him were two WW-II vintage German army straight keys and a fairly late model East German army straight key. These keys were all quite well made and unique and I'm glad to have them in my collection. All three were similar in their design, in that the fixed (lower) contact was not solidly mounted to the base of the key, but was mounted on a narrow, flexible strip of metal, possibly spring steel of some kind, and cantilevered from one end. While this strip of metal is fairly stiff, there is still some amount of flex when the key is depressed which gives it the mushy feeling we've been discussing for a couple of days. The fact that the later East German key is made basically the same makes me wonder if the Germans just like this feel or something. I supposed if we'd learned CW with nothing to use but mushy keys like that instead of the solid J38's and such that we grew up with, we'd think nothing of them either.

Oh, well, I guess finger talkin' ain't for everyone.

73's

Brad, WBOCGH

\*\*\*\*\*

Brad Bradfield, PE

Electrical Design Engineer

108 Forestwood  
Corinth, TX 76205

QLF@MSG.TI.COM

WB0CGH@W05H.#DFW.TX.USA.NA

Texas Instruments, Inc.

(H) 817-321-2960

(W) 214-462-6230

ARRL Life Member          QRP-L #377          SMIRK #4906          IEEE(M)

Collector of wireless and landline Morse keys and accessories.

\*\*\*\*\*

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: QLF@mimi@magic.itg.ti.com  
Subject: [2666] QRP-L  
Message-ID: <9601111837.AA23590@itg.ti.com>

From: Brad Bradfield      QLF

Subj: QRP-L

Well, I guess what I meant to say, but wasn't too clear on, is that he lives in the West German controlled portion of Berlin. And by the way, his name is Klaus Gramowski, DL7NS.

73's

Brad, WB0CGH

\*\*\*\*\*

Brad Bradfield, PE  
108 Forestwood  
Corinth, TX 76205

QLF@MSG.TI.COM

WB0CGH@W05H.#DFW.TX.USA.NA

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Collector of wireless and landline Morse keys and accessories.

\*\*\*\*\*

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: BRUCE3900@delphi.com  
Subject: [2683] QST Product Reviews  
Message-ID: <01HZW5QVQH089D9GSS@delphi.com>

Perhaps a final bleat on the topic.

Not too many of you may be aware that the current QST product Review policy was described in an article a few years ago by our own Bruce Williams, WA6IVC, the then Product Review Editor at QST, and now the proprietor of MXM Industries. The review process at QST has been refined through the years to maintain the principle of impartiality. The League purchases their own review rigs. After the review is completed the rigs are auctioned off to members.

The equipment selected for review is given to headquarters staffers to test and operate in their own shacks. The review editor collects their comments and includes them in the review.

Technical specifications are verified by the League's own in-house laboratory, run by another well known QRPer, Ed Hare, KA1CV.

In general the chips fall where they fall with reviews. However, exceptions are made for equipment that is obviously deficient -- the case of JRC being one example, and some MFJ hardware being another.

Product reviews and Advertising are kept separate at the League. Equipment to be advertised in QST WITH Technical Specification claims is also tested by the League's lab. The equipment must meet or exceed its claims or the advertising will be rejected.

73,

Bruce -- W6TOY/3  
QRP, Really! (c)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "David D. Meacham" <ddm@datatamers.com>  
Subject: [2632] Reduced Drift for Cascade  
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.960110213837.16278A-100000@dt1.datatamers.com>

Ed Burke and Cascade owners,

I tried the poly fix and got different results initially, but final results are great.

The situation is that the inductor (L1) has a positive temperature coefficient. We are trying to cancel that by putting in negative-TC caps. Well, when I put them in I got OVER-compensation.....75-meter frequency dropped with time (-274Hz in 1hr from a cold start).

I ended up using straight polys for C21 & C22. For C25 I had to use a combination of poly and NP0 caps in parallel.... 82pF poly and the rest NP0 disks under the board.

My results:

One hour after a cold start the frequency was +4Hz from where it started. This was with a closed case & without relocating the audio chip.

"Your mileage may vary" (Each rig is a little different!) In general, I'd say that you can't go wrong replacing C21 & C22 with polys. You will get a reduction in drift. Beyond that you will need to do some careful testing with a good counter to achieve lower drift.

72, Dave, W6EMD

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: PDouglas12@aol.com  
Subject: [2685] Siesta Key Mini Dxpedition  
Message-ID: <960111182755\_113615933@emout06.mail.aol.com>

Gang,

I will be in Siesta Key Florida (Near Sarasota, Gulf Coast) Friday night through Monday afternoon. I am taking the Sierra and four band modules. Expect to hear me with a random wire (a roll of magnet wire from an old solenoid--with one end scraped and tinned) particularly on 80 and 40, so lend me an ear or two on the QRP calling freqs. I may get up on 20 and 30 during the day (if it rains er...without thunder).

CUL, Preston WJ2V

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: John Mckee <jmckee@rfmd.com>  
Subject: [2635] straight keys

Message-ID: <199601111314.IAA103276@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

Fellow brass pounders,

What are some of the various models of straight keys available and how  
can  
I get info?

What are some of your preferences?

73/72

John WB4OFT  
jmckee@rfmd.com

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)  
Subject: [2674] T-shirts, decals, etc  
Message-ID: <199601112052.NAA10707@usr5.primenet.com>

I just received the first patches/decals/T-shirt from Old West Graphics,  
and they are nice.

You can get 'em from Old West at:

Old West Graphics  
749 S. Lemay, Ste A3-355  
Ft. Collins, CO 80524-3251

1.24" decals	.25 ea
4" window decal	3.25
5" heat transfer logo	3.90
Tee Shirt with 8" logo	16.95

Neat Stuff! Will have to wear the Tee to the HamFest this Sat.

Usual disclaimer: I have no financial interest in Old West Graphics,  
etc., etc. Just wanted to set this up for the list members.

72/73, de Roger  
Roger Hightower, AA7QY  
NorCal 1099 CoQRP 176 QRP-L 62 G-QRP 9081 ARCI 8946 NE-QRP 383

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "Jerzy (George) Wozniak" <JWOZNIAK@mpc-data.co.uk>  
Subject: [2664] Toko tuning capacitors  
Message-ID: <MAILQUEUE-101.960111173959.480@archer.mpc-data.co.uk>

Hi guys !

Does anyone know of a possible source for a Toko tuning capacitor,  
part number KT026BM please ?  
The spec for this part is 2 gangs of 266pF each, plus 4 trimmers of  
20pF each.  
I've not been able to find anyone who stocks it here in the U.K.,  
so I'll be very grateful if anyone knows where I can get one  
(or an equivalent).

Regards.

George, G0WPL

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: Mike Robinson <miker@cc.com>  
Subject: [2655] Vanity calls  
Message-ID: <9601111654.AA11723@voder.nsc.com>

As most of you know, the Vanity Call sign  
program is just around the corner. Of course  
how far away the corner is is another matter.

I have compiled a list of available 1x2 and 2x1  
callsigns that are currently unused.

It can be downloaded from my Home Page:

<http://www.frii.com/~michael/amateur.html>

Someone let me know that your download went ok.

The 610V is available also. I haven't attached  
it to my page yet, but will soon.

If you don't have WWW and want the unused.zip file,  
let me know and I'll make other arrangements.

There are folks charging for this list. If you feel the slightest bit grateful, please send a million dollars.

```
=====
7.3 de Michael AA0UB      miker@cc.com      michael@frii.com
      http://www.frii.com/~michael
      QRP-L #126      Norcal #857      CQC #180
=====
```

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: Thom.LaCosta@f0.n105.z105.fido261.qis.net (Thom LaCosta)  
Subject: [2686] Vanity calls  
Message-ID: <f88\_9601111843@fido261.qis.net>

Mike Robinson wrote in a message to All:

MR> From: Mike Robinson <miker@cc.com>  
MR> Subject: Vanity calls

MR> If you don't have WWW and want the unused.zip file,  
MR> let me know and I'll make other arrangements.

Can you put in an FTP area????  
thanks

Thom LaCosta  
N3WDV  
Our Business is Business  
--

|Internet: Thom.LaCosta@f0.n105.z105.fido261.qis.net  
| Standard disclaimer: The views of this user are strictly his own.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: mvjfm@mvubr.att.com (James M Fitton +1 508 960 2577)  
Subject: [2647] W8YNA - SK  
Message-ID: <9601111449.AA13341@ig4.att.att.com>

(Ron.... Pls place this notice in ARCI QQ)

John E Westphal, W8YNA became a silent key on Tuesday 1/9/96.  
He passed away after going to the hospital feeling ill.

John, even in his late seventies, was very active in QRP especially in radio construction. A few years back at Dayton he demonstrated a 40 meter "Twofer" DC transceiver built into a metal bandaid can complete with plug-in band change modules. He was years ahead of his time. I still have a Twofer transceiver he made for me for 40 meters. Always a gentleman, John had many QRP friends and will be sadly missed by all.

He is survived by his wife and children at this address.

(John E Westphal, W8YNA)

1721 Delmonte  
Toledo, OH 43615-3607

Thanks

Jim Fitton      W1FMR

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: RobCap@aol.com  
Subject: [2652] Wanted: Unbuilt HW-8 or HW-9  
Message-ID: <960111111836\_38435942@mail04.mail.aol.com>

Wanted: An unbuilt HW-8 or HW-9 kit. Willing to pay a premium price for an original unbuilt kit. Please contact:

Robcap@AOL.com

73,

Rob, WA3ULH

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "Glenn E. Scott" <SCOTTY@facade.adm.clarkson.edu>  
Subject: [2640] wattmeter  
Message-ID: <288556F784C@FACADE.ADM.CLARKSON.EDU>

You guy's are going to love this one. I have a Micronta swr/fs meter that doesn't work with qrp levels. What I would like to do is convert it to a directional wattmeter for qrp use. Does anyone know how to go about this or should I just junk it and start from scratch ?  
Any ideas ?



73

de Glenn N2ULU ( the guy with no qrp equipment, just a rig.)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: PAT DOYLE <DOYLEPS@LAKEHURST.NAVY.MIL>  
Subject: [2644] Re: 40 M for Digital and QRP -Reply  
Message-ID: <s0f4d827.057@LAKEHURST.NAVY.MIL>

I have been a ham since I was 12. I was an Advanced class for about 12 years when I decided that I wanted the extra space. After having to study materials and mechanical engineering theory for college, it was refreshing to study radio theory, again, for enjoyment. I probably wouldn't have bothered if it wasn't for what was found in the lower 25 kHz.

The "dangling carrot" approach does have its advantages. At least the added priveledges are worth the effort.

Pat, KA2GSL

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: JCoote@aol.com  
Subject: [2669] Re: AOL-Wide EMAIL Problems; Resolution of  
Message-ID: <960111140808\_87937323@mail04.mail.aol.com>

I called AOL C/S 800 number and talked to Lisa. I described those \*&^\$# hourglasses and lockups and that happy little "That mail no longer available or accessible" message.

Lisa suggested I log on, download the mail as a FlashSession, but NOT as an automatic disconnect FlashSession. This time I got all of the last four days of stuff on QRP-L and was able to click and read it all. No more lockups. I think AOL may still be working on the rest of the problem but this fix worked for me.

73, Jay WB6AAM

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996

From: "David Moody, KD8NY" <MOODY@Admin.Rose-Hulman.Edu>  
Subject: [2633] Re: BENCHER PADDLES  
Message-ID: <01HZVKLMUU3C8Y541G@ADMIN.Rose-Hulman.EDU>

>The magnetic attraction keys ( e.g., Vibroplex Brass Racer and Mercury ) are  
>interesting keys, but the magnetic inverse-law properties of the attraction  
>seems like the \*opposite\* of what's necessary. I once saw a prototype  
>paddle that used magnetic repulsion instead. It had a "spring" feel to it,  
>but the adjustments were rather touchy.

It would seem that magnetic attraction would be a little backwards, but IMHO  
it makes for a "snappier" key when adjusted properly. "Make" seems to work  
more quickly, and "break" seems to be quick enough. It is hard to explain  
until you try it, but since I bought a Brass Racer, I have just fallen in love  
with it, and I am one who could never find a set of paddles that I liked or  
really wanted to use. Actually, I still prefer a straight key, but above  
20wpm my wrist and arm want to fall off.

As far as the Bencher paddles go, mush is a good word. I can think of others,  
but I should be nice here. I guess it's really just a personal choice. I  
would imagine it is one of those things that good trolls and flame wars are  
made of. :-)

73, David Moody, KD8NY, We need new weathermen!

```
-----  
David A. Moody          | E-mail: David.Moody@Rose-Hulman.edu  
Admin. Programmer/Analyst | Finger: mgrdam@crux.Rose-Hulman.edu  
Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech. | Amateur Call: KD8NY (CW QRP) ex-WB9MMD  
Terre Haute, IN  USA  47803 | (VMS Rules!!! (but RSTS was fun.))  
Wk Ph:  812.877.8183      |  
-----
```

Any facts expressed within belong to everybody.  
Any opinions expressed within are my own and are not  
necessarily the same as my employer, family, friends, etc.  
It is up to you to know the difference.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: dsa@apollo.hp.com  
Subject: [2657] Re: Bencher Straight Keys...  
Message-ID: <1996011111702.MAA102333@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

In response to...

WB0CGH>I've never actually seen or used a Bencher straight key, but from the looks of  
WB0CGH>it in the magazine ads, the beam of the key appears to be stamped out of  
about  
WB0CGH>the same guage sheet metal as their paddle arms are. Even though the beam  
is  
WB0CGH>significantly wider than the paddle arms, I belive that it too would have  
some  
WB0CGH>amount of flex at this point. Anybody out there got a Bencher straight  
key?  
WB0CGH>How's it feel? Gimmee some comments.

...and....

WB2QDG>After being away from straight keys for quite a few years I decided  
WB2QDG>to give it a try again. I was given (after quite a few hints..hi) the  
WB2QDG>Bencher straight key RJ-1 (?). It's a very nice key, but seems to be a  
WB2QDG>bit light. That is I find myself holding the back of it down as I  
WB2QDG>pound (probably too literaly).

Well I have the Bencher RJ-2 (same as RJ-1, but chrome). I am very  
impressed by the quality and machining. I have noticed NO flex to  
the beam, just a very solid feel. I have not noticed that the base  
is too light (and I keep the return spring cranked). Guess it's all in  
the technique. I started with a Nye Viking but find this Bencher feels  
infinitely more solid. Very clean to operate, IMHO.

For what it's worth,  
-Dale QRP-L #91

=====  
Dale S. Anderson  
Hewlett-Packard, Co  
SMD0-E&W NPI Process, Software Development Engineering  
Exeter NH, Chelmsford Ma, Roseville and Cupertino CA  
..but telecommuting from, HP CIO-FC, Fort Collins, CO  
=====

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@bbs.abs.net (Mike Czuhajewski)  
Subject: [2630] Re HW-8 help request  
Message-ID: <1996Jan11.002126.12635@abs.net>

Two tips on the MPF105. Bruce, W6TOY, reminded me that the MPF102 and  
MPF105 are pretty much interchangeable, with the 105 being hotter.

Mike, KK6GM, said that the 2N5459 is a suitable sub for the 105 and available from Circuit Specialists for 45 cents (plus shipping and handling and any minimum order nastiness which may apply), and gave their number as 800-528-1417.

73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ wa8mcq@bbs.abs.net

--

Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ abs.net

E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski@bbs.abs.net

The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA

Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996

From: "'AB7HI' Stephen Lee" <slee@u.washington.edu>

Subject: [2656] Re: nice QSO

Message-ID: <Pine.A32.3.91j.960111083947.100415A-100000@homer19.u.washington.edu>

I'll need to listen up for Ralph, W7MP. I also had a Fine Business QSO this morning with Hal, W7SR from near Portland. He said my 5 watts sounded like 500 to him! (7 over S9) His rig was a Ten Tec Paragon and he was really crisp on the key. Hal retired from the US Forest Service and began his radio hobby, as did Ralph no doubt, with a spark gap transmitter. We were on 7.040 MHz at 08:30 UTC...about 12:30 AM PST. Rag chewing with the old timers is such a special pleasure!!!

Can't wait to contact Mr. Fox again...

Stephen Lee, AB7HI

slee@u.washington.edu

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996

From: Paul Harden <pharden@aoc.nrao.edu>

Subject: [2658] Re: nice QSO

Message-ID: <199601111728.KAA27999@zia.aoc.nrao.edu>

You beat my record, Smitty. I think the oldest OT I've worked was 95 in a nursing home, and a 93 year old ham I have QSO'd several times in Washington. Neither one of them indicated they were ready to go QRT anytime soon, either. But buying a brand new rig at 97 is the best case of optimism I have ever heard. I just hope I can be

that optimistic when I'm 60 -hi.

Paul NA5N

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "Warren E. Lewis" <saswel@unx.sas.com>  
Subject: [2678] Re: Novice Round UP  
Message-ID: <199601112144.AA00889@cardamom.unx.sas.com>

>  
> When the ARRL published the results last year,  
> they announced that the 1995 Novice Roundup was  
> last, due to lack of participation.

I am surprised no one has said anything about this yet.  
Yes the ARRL is no longer sponsoring a Novice Roundup.

But, ARCI has taken up the torch and is sponsoring  
the Novice Roundup this year!! Check out the Contest  
section of CQ, QST, and The Quarterly for details.

I for one am going to talk it up in the local  
area so that this tradition can continue.

cheers - Warren

P.S. Anybody going to QRP the NA QSO CW Party this weekend?

--

Warren E. Lewis	saswel@unx.sas.com
Technical Support Division	(919) 677-8001 x6542
SAS Institute Inc.	PP-ASEL
Cary, NC	AD4ZE QRP-L#78 DOD#0021

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: KFGlynn@aol.com  
Subject: [2682] Re: Novice Round UP  
Message-ID: <960111174710\_113572910@emout05.mail.aol.com>

I thought I read that last year was the last due to lack of participation.

73 de Kevin KB2TE0

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: carreiro@netcom.com (Paul Carreiro)  
Subject: [2691] Re: Novice Round UP  
Message-ID: <199601120243.SAA22128@netcom19.netcom.com>

FYI: The FISTS International CW Club is also sponsoring a Novice Roundup between 1600 UTC Saturday February 24th and 2400 UTC Sunday March 3, 1996.  
Look for details in February QST etc.

I guess there was no coordination (as if there is any such thing in Amateur Radio these days) between FISTS and ARCI. So.. we lost 1 ARRL NR and gained 2 others. I urge everyone to participate in both. Perhaps next year there will only be one.. from one or the other group.

BTW: The FISTS International CW Club is an organization dedicated to the promotion, use, and mentoring of CW. This is not for high speed ops only. We have many QRS people world wide. All you need is the love of CW. If anyone is interested in this organization.. I can forward the needed information via private E-Mail.

73/72 Paul N6HCS /M /QRP /QRQ

--

Paul F. Carreiro - N6HCS - E-Mail: carreiro@netcom.com  
QRP / Boatanchors / Mobile CW / QRQ +40WPM  
NorCal QRP #367 / QRP QRCI #8885 / CW FISTS #1407 / QRP-L #236  
Zuni Loop Mountain Expeditionary Force (Rookie)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "'AB7HI' Stephen Lee" <slee@u.washington.edu>  
Subject: [2659] Re: Paddles  
Message-ID: <Pine.A32.3.91j.960111091158.100415D-1000000@homer19.u.washington.edu>

I started out using the Vibroplex Brass Racer. It performed flawlessly up to about 15 WPM. At higher speeds, it has a tendency to contact bounce on the dit paddle. I tried to fix that to no avail. The contacts on the Vibroplex have a dimple in the middle. This from the manufacturing process, no doubt, which attaches the contact to its threaded post. I believe those dimples contribute to the contact bounce. Also, the contacts required frequent cleaning.

I'm one that experiments with the settings. After a year of

using the Brass Racer the magnets loosened up. I need to paint them with clear fingernail polish or some such thing so they fit more snugly. The real kicker is that contact bounce...could never solve that problem.

So now I use the Bencher paddles. They have worked fine business from day one and after a year's use continue to do so. The gold plated contacts have not needed to be cleaned.

My skill levels at 20 WPM are, how shall I put it, marginal. I just didn't have the confidence using the Vibroplex that I have with the Bencher. Let me tell you, if the confidence is not there, neither is the ability. I've been able to improve my skills using both paddles. Initially the Vibroplex Brass Racer got me started but for the higher speed code work I rely on the Bencher iambic.

"And that's the way it is...", 73 all  
Stephen Lee, AB7HI  
slee@u.washington.edu

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)  
Subject: [2670] Re: Paddles  
Message-ID: <199601111938.MAA02916@usr6.primenet.com>

I've been using the Bencher paddle for abt 5 years now, and just last year got the "feel" right. One of the members of FOC (First-class Operators Club) suggested that I bend the paddle arms inward until the gap was 3/16" or less, then set the contact gap with a piece of 10# paper (thinner than regular bond).

Once I did that, it became easy to swing right along with a light touch, and the base is heavy enough that nothing slides.

72, de Roger, AA7QY

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: David Moody <MOODY@Admin.Rose-Hulman.Edu>  
Subject: [2672] Re: Paddles  
Message-ID: <01HZVZQC0TD68Y541G@ADMIN.Rose-Hulman.EDU>

IN%"slee@u.washington.edu" wrote:

>I started out using the Vibroplex Brass Racer. It performed  
>flawlessly up to about 15 WPM. At higher speeds, it has a  
>tendency to contact bounce on the dit paddle. I tried to  
>fix that to no avail. The contacts on the Vibroplex have a  
>dimple in the middle. This from the manufacturing process,  
>no doubt, which attaches the contact to its threaded post.  
>I believe those dimples contribute to the contact bounce.  
>Also, the contacts required frequent cleaning.

I've never had this problem with my Brass Racer. Electrically it has  
always done well. I will have to admit that the magnets needed to be  
fixed up a little so that they would stay in place, but fingernail  
polish worked wonders there.

>My skill levels at 20 WPM are, how shall I put it, marginal. I  
>just didn't have the confidence using the Vibroplex that I have  
>with the Bencher. Let me tell you, if the confidence is not there,  
>neither is the ability. I've been able to improve my skills using  
>both paddles. Initially the Vibroplex Brass Racer got me started  
>but for the higher speed code work I rely on the Bencher iambic.

Here, I think you hit the nail on the head about anything! If you don't  
have the confidence when using something, anything, you really will never  
enjoy it, and your ability won't increase. This goes for code keys, CW in  
general, computers, flying, driving, you name it, it fits. But once you  
gain the confidence, it becomes hard to imagine that you thought you never  
had it before. Gee, how does that go? Uhhh, "the only thing we have to  
fear is fear itself." Hmmm, fits for lots of things. Cool...

73, David Moody, KD8NY, well it's snowing again...

-----  
David A. Moody | E-mail: David.Moody@Rose-Hulman.edu  
Admin. Programmer/Analyst | Finger: mgrdam@crux.Rose-Hulman.edu  
Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech. | Amateur Call: KD8NY (CW QRP) ex-WB9MMD  
Terre Haute, IN USA 47803 | (VMS Rules!!! (but RSTS was fun.))  
Wk Ph: 812.877.8183

Any facts expressed within belong to everybody.  
Any opinions expressed within are my own and are not  
necessarily the same as my employer, family, friends, etc.  
It is up to you to know the difference.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>



Subject: [2688] Re: Paddles

Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.960111165825.14468C-100000@vortex.sage.dri.edu>

Hi all,

I have both the Benchers, which I have been using for about 15 years and a Brass Racer.

I keep one on the Kenwood and the other on the 40a. Can't tell any difference. I keep them set close and light. When I touch one it makes a noise!

Now I could tell some war stories about the HeathKit keyer that I use in the truck.....there I keep the spacing wide to counter the bouncing around and that in turn keeps the speed down. But they still work and it's still fun using them.

I also have and even use now and then, an old MFJ single lever keyer.

And bugs.....ah, but that's a real art form that I no longer have. Keep saying that maybe, just maybe, one of these days I'll get it back.....Bugs make real cw and real operators.....both sending and receiving!

cul,

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....  
...ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....  
...QRP-L #17....ARRL....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996

From: Pat Taber <ptaber@logiccraft.com>

Subject: [2634] RE: Paddles:

Message-ID: <199601111256.HAA36755@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

>>Uses magnets for tension adjustment, giving it a very sharp, clean snappy  
>>feel, much like the action of a finely honed trigger of a fine handgun. No  
>>mushy spring action here.

>

>Just one problem from some folks who have tried it: magnetic \*attraction\* is  
>used rather than magnetic \*repulsion\*.

[...]

>

This is exactly opposite

what's needed to  
>simulate the effect of a spring and this effect is due to the inverse-square  
>law of a magnetic field.  
>

So who says a spring is the ultimate? The original message praises the  
"clean snappy feel" (of an inverse-square release) and specifically says he  
doesn't like the feel of a spring. De gustibus non disputandum est.

>>>==>PStJTT

```
=====
Patrick Taber                      Email: ptaber@logiccraft.com
Principal Software Engineer        Phone: (603) 880-0300
Logiccraft Information Services    Fax: (603) 880-7229
22 Cotton Road
Nashua N.H. 03063                 Also known as: KC1TD
```

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: Paul Christensen <PaulC@jax.se.continental.com>  
Subject: [2643] RE: Paddles:  
Message-ID: <30F546E9@se.continental.com>

>So who says a spring is the ultimate? The original message praises the  
>"clean snappy feel" (of an inverse-square release) and specifically says he  
>doesn't like the feel of a spring. De gustibus non disputandum est.

Sure, everyone has their own preferences. It only seems to me that a more  
controlled "make-and-break" feel would come from the same inverse-square  
property, but with magnetic \*repulsion\* rather than \*attraction\*.

Personally, I have always liked slightly more pressure on the paddle the  
further I move it from center.

As much as I dislike the Bencher for it's "mushy" feel, the spring  
arrangement is a brilliant concept: because a long spring is used, the  
pressure on the paddle remains relatively constant with paddle travel. Many  
ops like this. From what I recall about the Bencher, the "mushiness" is  
solely due to the relatively thin metal that's used at the point where the  
acrylic finger pieces meet and make a turn into the vertical pivots. This  
distance, coupled with the relatively thin metal is the cause.

-Paul, N9AZ

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: GREGOIRE@VALLEY.NET (ERNEST GREGOIRE)  
Subject: [2654] Re: qrp+ keyer  
Message-ID: <199601111632.LAA30394@dartvax.dartmouth.edu>

>Is anyone besides me disappointed with the auto word spacing feature of  
>the qrp+ internal keyer.

>

>cheers, Paul

>VE7CQK

>email: paul1@wizard.ucs.sfu.ca

>

Hello Paul,

I have recently purchased a Ten Tec 556, and love the internal keyer. When I switch to the QRP+ I have trouble. The internal keyer for the 556 is a Curtis b . The QRP+ is an imitation Curtis according to Bruce. I do like some of the features of the QRP+ , like the memories, and the SCAF, but "I'm here to tell ya", the audio in the 556 is just great, and that is for both CW and SSB.

Back to the QRP+, I don't think Bruce will change the present keyer. I had a long talk about this over a year ago when I was having the W1AW trouble in 80 meters. There are so many personal preferences in keyers as well as in paddles, look at the number of posts on paddles lately. If you have one that you like and it happens to be built in to a rig that you like, I'd say then, "You got it made".

The more I use the Argo 556, the less I use the Index rig. It's not that I dislike the QRP+, far from it, I think it's a wonderful rig. I have been doing a side by side between the 556 and the QRP+. The big test will be on the first weekend of February, in the Great North East QSO party. This is a combination QSO party, including Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. I'll be doing both SSB and CW, qrp for course!

So good luck on your keyer quest.

de AA1IK                      N.E.-QRP-C. # 202      ( Lead by example, It is better to      )  
                                 QRP-L member #95.      ( pull a string than it is to push it.)  
Ernie Gregoire  
RR 1 Box 221  
Canaan, NH. 03741

New England QRP Club, information  
available on request by sending me a  
S.A.S.E. or via E-mail.

e-mail : GREGOIRE@VALLEY.NET  
packet : AA1IK@WA1WOK.FN43FE.NH.USA

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: RHILT0@acxiom.com  
Subject: [2653] Re: QRP-L  
Message-ID: <0f539a10@acxiom.com>

Sez Brad, WB0CGH --

>Several years ago I did some key trading with a ham in Berlin, then  
>in West Germany.

Ummm, when did Berlin move? I thought it was in the (old) East  
Germany.

7.3, ki5ez  
Bob

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: ddonald@vikings.onecomm.com (Dave Donaldson)  
Subject: [2629] RE: Salt Water Batteries???

There are some kits that I would like to have launched over the ocean  
from a plane flying a couple hundred miles an hour and over a mile above  
the ocean so they would NOT survive (the guilty will not be name) :>)

Dave, WB7DRU, MN.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu>  
Subject: [2638] Re: straight keys  
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9601110853.B22160-01000000@w3eax.umd.edu>

I personally like the Nye Viking Straight key. Solid base, pretty cheap, and the contacts can be set pretty close.

Alternately, my Vibroplex Vibro-Keyer makes a dandy side-saddle key. I used this for many years, and it still feels quite good, even at 25 wpm plus.

I find it easier on my wrist to do 25 wpm on the side-saddle than on the true straight key, for that matter.

Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD FM19 QRV 40-10/6/2/440  
\*\* Yes, you CAN do VHF contests with 25W and omni antennas \*\*  
Still stuck at 138 countries confirmed on HF w/dipoles...  
72 & 73 from suburban DC 301-549-1022 (h) 301-982-1015 (w)

On Thu, 11 Jan 1996, John Mckee wrote:

>  
> Fellow brass pounders,  
>  
> What are some of the various models of straight keys available and how  
> can  
> I get info?  
>  
> What are some of your preferences?  
>  
> 73/72  
>  
> John WB40FT  
> jmckee@rfmd.com  
>  
>

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: bmitchel@kodak.com (Brad Mitchell)  
Subject: [2642] Re: straight keys  
Message-ID: <9601111349.AA12189@iiatasun.cba.Kodak.COM>

>I personally like the Nye Viking Straight key. Solid base, pretty cheap,  
>and the contacts can be set pretty close.

In a word..... UGLY!

A friend has one, saw it, finally got the nerve to touch it..

works great once I got the blind fold on..  
:-) 73 Brad WB8YGG

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: KFGlynn@aol.com  
Subject: [2646] Re: straight keys  
Message-ID: <960111094502\_87825842@emout05.mail.aol.com>

John I have an old flameproof Navy straight key I absolutely love. I bought it a fleamarket for \$37 and it's my favorite. I've seen it for \$45 in mint condition at the Yonkers hamfest in NY area. I'm sure they must be alot cheaper elsewhere. I did see a ham selling them in QST in the Ham Ads.

I also have a Nye straight key that went for about \$28 that's also pretty good. The Navy key blows it away though.

73 de Kevin KB2TE0

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: Thom <thom@li.net>  
Subject: [2651] Re: straight keys  
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960111103715.18955D-100000@linet01>

After being away from straight keys for quite a few years I decided to give it a try again. I was given (after quite a few hints..hi) the Bencher straight key RJ-1 (?). It's a very nice key, but seems to be a bit light. That is I find myself holding the back of it down as I pound (probably too literally).

I've used the Bencher paddles in the past and was very impressed with their weight and thought that the straight key would be the same.

Being a product of a J-38, screwed to the table top in my shack, way back when, I'd have to say I'm a bit dissapointed in paying \$65 and having a key that won't stay put.

Otherwise, the Bencher key seems well built and smooth in its use.

73 de  
Tom

WB2QDG

thom@li.net

On Thu, 11 Jan 1996, John Mckee wrote:

>  
> Fellow brass pounders,  
>  
> What are some of the various models of straight keys available and how  
> can  
> I get info?  
>  
> What are some of your preferences?  
>  
> 73/72  
>  
> John WB40FT  
> jmckee@rfmd.com  
>  
>

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: N5EM@aol.com  
Subject: [2663] Re: straight keys  
Message-ID: <960111131456\_113309854@emout05.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 96-01-11 10:49:54 EST, you write:

>  
>Being a product of a J-38, screwed to the table top in my shack, way back  
>when, I'd have to say I'm a bit dissapointed in paying \$65 and having a  
>key that won't stay put.  
>  
>Otherwise, the Bencher key seems well built and smooth in its use.  
>  
>

Personally, I never had a key that didn't need a heavy base mounted to it.  
Maybe I get too "vigorous" with it. My favorite method is to get a piece of  
brass about 1/4 to 3/8 inch thick and have it cut to an appropriate shape and  
screw the key down to it.

As for the Bencher Paddle, I love mine BECAUSE of the very light action. It  
is just what suits your particular touch and, hence, you have to USE one  
before you buy one. Come to Dayton. You'll be able to try them all before

you decide. Then you can probably find a used one for a deal :-)

Ed

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: Bob Patten <z002816b@bcfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us>  
Subject: [2668] Re: straight keys  
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9601111450.A20560-0100000@bcfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us>

On Thu, 11 Jan 1996 N5EM@aol.com wrote:

> As for the Bencher Paddle, I love mine BECAUSE of the very light action. It  
> is just what suits your particular touch and, hence, you have to USE one  
> before you buy one. Come to Dayton. You'll be able to try them all before  
> you decide. Then you can probably find a used one for a deal :-)  
>

Even with its like action, I tend to "hammer" mine side to side. Long ago, I replaced both plastic paddles due to cracks at the rivet holes, probably because of my heavy hand. To keep the thing in place on my desk, I have it wedged between a vertical partition and my rotator control box. Guess the "light action" is wasted on me, but I love the feel of the thing...

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: rxd7@rabbit.INS.CWRU.Edu  
Subject: [2676] Re: T-shirts, decals, etc  
Message-ID: <199601112110.QAA10248@rabbit.INS.CWRU.Edu>

>I just received the first patches/decals/T-shirt from Old West Graphics,  
>and they are nice.

>

>You can get 'em from Old West at:

>

>Old West Graphics

>749 S. Lemay, Ste A3-355

>Ft. Collins, CO 80524-3251

>

>1.24" decals .25 ea

>4" window decal 3.25

>5" heat transfer logo 3.90

>Tee Shirt with 8" logo 16.95

>

>Neat Stuff! Will have to wear the Tee to the HamFest this Sat.



>  
>Usual disclaimer: I have no financial interest in Old West Graphics,  
>etc., etc. Just wanted to set this up for the list members.  
>  
>72/73, de Roger  
>Roger Hightower, AA7QY  
>NorCal 1099 CoQRP 176 QRP-L 62 G-QRP 9081 ARCI 8946 NE-QRP 383

Roger,

Thanks for the update on the decals etc.. Forgive me for asking but what are these for. but you make no mention of their purpose.

Thanks,73, Dick Dell WD8ISB  
Richard A. Dell

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)  
Subject: [2681] Re: T-shirts, decals, etc  
Message-ID: <199601112244.PAA27651@usr5.primenet.com>

At 04:10 PM 1/11/96 -0500, rxd7@rabbit.INS.CWRU.Edu wrote:

>Roger,  
>  
>Thanks for the update on the decals etc.. Forgive me for asking but what  
>are these for. but you make no mention of their purpose.  
>  
>Thanks,73, Dick Dell WD8ISB  
>Richard A. Dell  
>  
>

Some months back, Chuck Adams started an Internet QRP Club (IQ Club) logo contest. My submission was chosen by the list members, and I then offered to have it set up for decals, T-shirts, etc. Response from the list members was positive, so I did it. If you subscribe to the list you are automatically a member of the IQ Club.

You can see the logo at the QRP-L Web site.

73, de Roger

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: JDuffy@aol.com  
Subject: [2637] Re: Ten-Tec Rigs  
Message-ID: <960111082234\_113080614@emout05.mail.aol.com>

>Clark....it is a shame we have ads in QST as it does reduce the potential  
for  
>impartial reviews. I notice that Consumers Guide...when I last looked....had  
>no ads. You are certainly correct.....an impartial study focusing on lots of  
>data and service and consultation and other factors important to hams would  
>be ideal.....as you say, the ARRL should do it! Have they the fortitude to  
do  
>so?

First, we probably could not afford an ARRL membership and QST if the ads  
were not there to support it.

Second, QST has been pretty impartial and even critical at times.

Third, Consumer Reports is the most biased publication I have ever seen, even  
without ads. I have followed their "recommended" products at times and have  
found it to be a mistake on a number of occasions. I remember my mom tellin  
a story of buying their recommended washer and dryer. The washer was garbage  
and had to be returned to the store. She bought another model that was not  
recommended and it lasted for over 17 years without a service call.

IMHO, QST is fair and you can keep the Consumer Reports.

Regards,

Duffy - WB8NUT

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: N5EM@aol.com  
Subject: [2662] Re: Ten-Tec Rigs  
Message-ID: <960111131454\_113309824@mail06.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 96-01-11 08:26:23 EST, you write:

>  
>Second, QST has been pretty impartial and even critical at times.  
>  
>  
On this, I must strongly agree. I think that a number of

manufacturers/advertisers would agree that buying ads doth not a good review make. First case in point that comes to mind is the Japan Radio Company.  
Got a REAL bashing a couple of years ago. It resulted in a total redesign.

I think that the review policy in QST is amoung the most fair around. Only better one I know of is Consumer Reports and how many of us would join the ARRL for \$100+ a year to support a totally unbiased amateur radio consumer group.

They have made a couple of bonehead calls over the years (NBVM comes to mind) but over the years, an excellent job of telling it like it is when products are reviewed.

72  
Ed, N5EM

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: "C. J. Hawley Jr." <hawley@aries.scs.uiuc.edu>  
Subject: [2667] Re: Ten-Tec Rigs  
Message-ID: <30F55C52.2302@aries.scs.uiuc.edu>

N5EM@aol.com wrote:

snip

> I think that the review policy in QST is amoung the most fair around. Only  
> better one I know of is Consumer Reports and how many of us would join the  
> ARRL for \$100+ a year to support a totally unbiased amateur radio consumer  
> group.

>

> They have made a couple of bonehead calls over the years (NBVM comes to mind)  
> but over the years, an excellent job of telling it like it is when products  
> are reviewed.

>

> 72  
> Ed, N5EM

I think the main thing is that these reviewers feel free to say what they think, and not whether they are right or wrong. I have been reading Consumer Reports for many years and feel that they have been biased boneheads in the past, but they write what they think regardless of advertising and that is what is good about them. I have noticed that you can usually make your own pick regardless of theirs since they publish most of their reasoning in the text. I feel that QST has been quite fair in their reviews in spite of the advertising. They seem to be in a strong enough position to do that.

Chuck, KE9UW

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: PAT DOYLE <DOYLEPS@LAKEHURST.NAVY.MIL>  
Subject: [2677] Re: Ten-Tec Rigs -Reply  
Message-ID: <s0f4f302.080@LAKEHURST.NAVY.MIL>

I agree with Duffy, WB8NUT. Consumer Reports seems to recommend all of the products that have been discontinued.

In 17 years, I have not found QST to be overly biased toward their advertisers' products. I don't always agree with their reviews, but taking any reviewers' opinion of a product should not be the only basis of a purchase. Generally, they provide a good starting point on a product evaluation.

Pat, KA2GSL

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: Harry\_Chase@smtpgw.windata.com (Harry Chase)  
Subject: [2680] Re: Ten-Tec Rigs -Reply  
Message-ID: <9600118214.AA821409746@smtpgw.windata.com>

Consumer Reports seemed to only review products that were discontinued?! Oh, but then I have seen an awful lot of consumer products that were \*very\* high quality get discontinued in favor of some glitzier-looking piece of junk, too... Its a distressing fact that with all our wonderful new technology, a lot of it is being used by the mfr's to figure out new and exciting ways to cut just-one-more-corner from the quality of a product, in the name of a few pennies. Certainly not true for all of them, but the pattern is easy to see in the consumer product world.

A good case in point, for the woodworking types reading this, is what has happened to Sears power tools between the 1960's and today. Sort of like comparing a Rolls Royce with a Yugo...

Harry  
WA1VVH

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: RHILT0@acxiom.com  
Subject: [2679] Re: Vanity calls  
Message-ID: <0f58bae0@acxiom.com>

Michael AA0UB ---

>I have compiled a list of available 1x2 and 2x1 callsigns that are  
>currently unused.

>It can be downloaded from my Home Page:

<http://www.frii.com/~michael/amateur.html>

>Someone let me know that your download went ok.

Well I downloaded the file; I guess it went ok... not sure what good  
this list of calls is -- it unzips to hundreds and hundreds of short  
calls without names or addresses and I can't find any of them listed  
on the various callsign servers, nor on the QRP-L subscriber list...

Apparently this is the definitive list of hams who religiously abide  
by the ARRL's suggested bandplan.

7.3, ki5ez ( <--- definitely not on the list )  
Bob

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Thu Jan 11 21:24:12 1996  
From: stan@cruzio.com  
Subject: [2665] RE: wattmeter

>You guy's are going to love this one. I have a Micronta swr/fs meter  
>that doesn't work with qrp levels. What I would like to do is  
>convert it to a directional wattmeter for qrp use. Does anyone know  
>how to go about this or should I just junk it and start from scratch ?  
>de Glenn N2ULU ( the guy with no qrp equipment, just a rig.)  
>

Hi ULU , I did that with a cb type wattmeter but only as a foreword  
reading, uncalibrated meter. I could have calibrated it but never got

around to it as it served my needs as it worked .

Look inside and you may see the RF coupled to the meter by a winding around an iron ( or some type of ) rod. Mine had 1 turn .  
TO increase the sensitivity, remove that 1 turn and replace with a wire that has 5 to 10 turns and it will give you a "relative " reading.

I suspect if you can match the turns on the "reverse " side, you may get something useful for checking swr.

If you do tune ( calibrate) this, I suspect it will be very frequency dependent.

72, Stan N6ULU

>.-  
>

-----  
E-mail: stan@cruzio.com